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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Kessler *et al.*

Application No.: 09/530,747

Group Art Unit: 1634

Filed: October 23, 2000

Examiner: Taylor, J.

For: SPECIFIC AND SENSITIVE  
NUCLEIC ACID DETECTION  
METHOD

Attorney Docket No.: 4817/OR  
(1803-302-999)

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**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants have carefully considered the final Office Action mailed February 21, 2002, in connection with the above-captioned Application. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the amendment and remarks that follow is respectfully requested. Filed herewith are Exhibit A (Claim Amendment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made), Exhibit B (Claim Amendment: Pending Claims After Entry of Instant Amendment) and a Request for Continued Examination.

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows:

1. (Four times amended) A method for the detection of a nucleic acid comprising:
  - (a)- producing a plurality of amplicates of a section of the nucleic acid with the aid of two primers, one of which can bind to a first binding sequence A of one strand of the nucleic acid and the other can bind to a second binding sequence C' which is essentially complementary to a sequence C which is located in the 3' direction from A and does not overlap A, in the presence of a probe having a